

By 1910, Long Beach had rapidly grown into a city of 18,000 and its high school was overflowing with students. Residents not only saw a need for a larger high school, but also for an expanded curriculum that would offer technical-vocational courses in addition to the college preparatory classes. They wisely knew that such a school would appeal to many young people who had not been interested in the more traditional type of educational program.

That year, a \$240,000 bond issue was passed to build a new type of high school that would offer technical-vocational courses as well as a college preparatory curriculum. In 1911, it opened its doors at the corner of 16th Street and Atlantic Avenue in Long Beach and has stood there ever since as Long Beach Polytechnic High School. In 1910, the site was considered so far on the outskirts of town that "only jack rabbits were out there." This somewhat derisive comment led to the selection of Poly's mascot, the jack rabbit. Bearing the deceptively benign title of the Mighty Jack Rabbits, Poly High's athletic teams have gone on to win numerous championships and to produce many professionals and Olympic athletes.

In addition to offering a well-rounded, polytechnic curriculum designed to meet the needs of all the community's young people, Poly has also provided experiences in self-governing for its students. In the early part of this century, student government was not a common activity in high schools. But a Poly teacher during this era, Miss Jane Harnet, worked to add this important learning activity to the school's courses. In the 1913-14 Poly student yearbook, the Cerulea—from the adjective meaning of the color sky blue—student Stanley Harvey wrote: "The students of the Long Beach Polytechnic High School have a privilege not generally accorded in most high schools, in that they have an organized student body with both elective and appointive offices who have charge of all assemblies, entertainments, literary activities, etc., provided that they pass the two faculty members of the Commission."

The Long Beach community's commitment to the finest educational experiences for all students also extended to students of varied backgrounds. Poly High has long-served as a model for providing a first-rate education for a multi-ethnic student body. The student body has been integrated from the school's first days, and Poly High has a decades-long tradition of educating young people to appreciate and respect those of differing backgrounds and cultures. In the years following the Second World War, Japanese-Americans returning from the relocation camps sent their children there—the same school that their parents had attended in the 1920's and 1930's. Those Japanese-American sons and daughters who enrolled in the 1940's and returned to Long Beach saw their children later join a large, racially mixed student body of African-Americans, Anglos, and Latinos. With over 40,000 Cambodians in Long Beach and many Vietnamese and overseas Chinese, Poly High today embraces a large Southeast Asian population as well.

Recently, I visited Poly High and met with the cadet corps as well as students in American Government. What an outstanding group of young Americans. The cadets were energetic, dedicated, and motivated beyond their years.

In many ways, alumni from Poly High follow their school's motto: Enter to learn, go forth to serve. From celebrities such as Van Johnson, Billie Jean King, Marilyn Horne, and young film star Cameron Diaz; to countless community activists to heroes of the First and Second World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf war; students from Poly have made their mark. One graduate, Lorraine Miller Collins, became Long Beach's major philanthropist—funding the Miller Children's Hospital, a rare book room in the public library, and an international house and Japanese garden at California State University, Long Beach.

I am pleased that my two children are Poly graduates, as are three of my staff members. My wife, Nini, served as president of the parent-teacher association and, for many years, was also a member of the Poly High Community Interracial Committee. The PACE program at Poly has attracted bright students of all ethnicities and races from all parts of the city. The number of college acceptances is proof that this fine high school is truly producing scholars and champions.

Beginning near the end of the 19th century in a small building on the outskirts of town, Poly High has grown through the 20th century to become a leading urban educational institution. Its history is one of community commitment to a quality education for all. Its graduates are models of the value a community receives in return for an early investment in and commitment to education. Today, Long Beach Polytechnic High School stands as testimony to the importance placed on education by the citizens—then and now—of Long Beach, CA.

Congratulations again on your 100th birthday, Poly High, may you have many more years of service to our community, our State, and our Nation.

NASA: LOOKING TO SPACE

HON. WAYNE ALLARD

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 31, 1995

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a minute to show my support for NASA and the space station. NASA is a critical investment in America's future. The contributions made by NASA have provided major breakthroughs in science and technology, which in turn, have contributed to long-term economic growth and provided opportunities for future generations.

Technology is rapidly changing, and NASA has been a major part of that change, with its long range research focus. While the private sector should be the principal place for developing new and improved technologies, many of NASA's investments have led to spinoffs which have been successfully incorporated into the marketplace—for example: Virtual reality, color and 3-dimensional graphics, language translators, compact discs, heart rate monitors, water purification and filters, breast cancer detection, microlasers, fireman's air tanks, and emission tests.

Even with these innovations, NASA has remained focused on its one core mission: Space exploration. NASA's mission does not interfere or compete with private industry. NASA stands as a strong example of how government research can complement private industry research.

I have always had the utmost respect for the research by NASA but in the past I have not always been their strongest ally. I have voted against the NASA budget the space station when I believed NASA was wasting resources and moving away from their core mission. Though it took much prodding from Congress and a major reduction in their budget, I strongly believe NASA is now one of the leanest and most productive agencies of the Federal Government.

Earlier this year, the Budget Committee held hearings on corporate downsizing. At these hearings, we heard from General Electric and Kodak. They told the committee how they successfully downsized their companies while producing more. With their reduced budget, this is exactly what NASA has accomplished. NASA's budget has already been reduced by 35 percent since fiscal year 1993 and has reduced its work force to its lowest level since 1961. The agency has stepped up to the challenge and is accomplishing more while spending less. For example, NASA's new mission control saved millions of dollars by buying and using marketplace computers and technology. I believe NASA is an example that all agencies and departments should follow.

Since I have been in Congress, the space station has been extensively debated. Today, the redesigned station is less expensive and more capable. The new design saves \$5 billion in developmental costs, reduces annual operating costs by half, and expands the station's research capabilities. The space station will conduct valuable medical and technological research which can have great benefits for the future. In addition, the station is a co-operative project with Russia, Japan, Canada and member nations of the European Space Agency. This project brings together the world's best and brightest scientists to work for solutions to problems here on Earth.

Congress should not turn its back on the future. It is imperative that America remains first in technological advancements. We need technology to move this country forward. NASA is a sound investment which can help facilitate new technological innovations and discoveries that will lead America into the 21st century.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2076) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2076, Making Appropriations for the Department of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies for Fiscal Year 1996. This bill will cripple many of our Nation's most important governmental functions so that the interests of the American people will not be well served.